

course, adapted for a female audience'. He was fully aware of his peril, 'People', he writes, 'less easily resist temptations to be witty than to be wicked; and in case of failure, the wits of Bristol would doubtless have vied with one another in reporting them as *would-be tutors to the ladies in anatomy*.⁹ However, the brave were fortunate and the wits of Bristol remained silent. According to Dr. Stock: 'a prospectus of lectures was drawn up, from which every topic which might, by possibility, afford room for a perverted imagination to lay hold of, was sedulously excluded. To ensure a select audience, tickets were issued for ladies only; but each lady was at liberty to introduce a gentleman. About forty ladies of great respectability entered their names; and they expressed the greatest satisfaction with the course, which consisted of ten lectures/ From first to last, in fact, 'no circumstance occurred that could give alarm to the most timid female delicacy, or excite disgust in the most refined mind*.

But the pen remained the Doctor's favourite medical instrument. He had a large practice; but he loved even better to preach. He wrote for members of his profession on technical subjects like *Digitalis* or *Sea-scurvy*; he wrote for the general public such works as his *Popular Essay on Consumption* and *Manual of Health, or The Invalid Conducted Safely through the Seasons*; he wrote for the poor A

*Guide for Self-preservation and Parental
 Affection and Good
 Advice for the Husbandman in Harvest and for
 All Those who
 Labour Hard in Hot Births¹; as also for Others
 who will Take
 it in Warm Weather.* Throughout these
 strangely en-
 titled works there persists the same
 characteristic mixture
 of humour and pomposity, eccentricity and
 sense. He
 attacks the sentimental neglect of the
 consumptive. 'The

¹*l.e.* berths, situations, occupations.